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JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 SEP 2005

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*Barbara Fisher*  
Barbara Fisher  
Date: 21 September 2005

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of: )  
BERGGREN, Wouter Detlof, et al. )  
Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP2004/050347 )  
Int. Filing Date: 23 March 2004 )  
SLUICE VESSEL AND METHOD OF OPERATING SUCH )  
A SLUICE VESSEL )

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Box PCT (DO/EO/US)  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

Prior to taking up the case for examination, please amend the application as follows: